ANNEXURE.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 6 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 31st July 1946, page 4 supra.]

Rules governing the grant of subsidy and loans for sinking new wells and repairing old wells under the Accelerated Scheme.

The Accelerated Scheme was introduced in all the districts of the Province except the Nilgiris. Under the scheme, a subsidy of half the cost of the new well or of repairs to an old well, subject to the maxima mentioned below, was granted. In the district of North Arcot, Chingleput, Chittoor, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly and Salem and in the Ceded Districts there was already a Grow More Food Scheme under which a subsidy of 25 per cent of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 310 was granted for a new well. In these districts, the maximum subsidy for sinking a new well under the Accelerated Scheme was also fixed at Rs. 310. In the case of old wells, the maximum subsidy payable was Rs. 160 in all the districts.

2. The ryot who has been granted a subsidy may also be given a takkavi loan to cover the balance of the cost. Loans so granted are free of interest during the first year and repayment will start only after two or three years.

3. The grant of the subsidy was subject to the conditions—

(1) that the well should be completed by 30th September 1946; and

(2) that only food crops should be grown under the well for three years following the completion of the well.

Food crops include vegetables and fruits.

4. In the case of new wells, subsidies were generally granted only for wells sunk in areas where the water table was 20 to 30 feet below ground level and where picottahs could be worked by men. This restriction was imposed in view of the difficulty in getting bulls for purposes of baling out water from wells, and it was waived if the owner of the well had bulls.

5. In the case of old wells, a restriction was imposed that the well should be capable of irrigating at least half an acre more of paddy or one acre more of any other food crop than before repairs. This rule was relaxed in cases where the well was deepened by a depth of at least 3 feet.

6. Big wells were allowed to have revetment only on one side to satisfy the conditions of the scheme, the rest of the revetment being done after 30th September 1946.

7. Subsidies were usually granted before the well works were begun, after a brief enquiry as to the capacity of the ryot to repay the same if he failed to satisfy the conditions of the grant. In order, however, that the wells may be completed quickly, the ryots were allowed to begin the work immediately after they had applied for subsidies and without waiting for the subsidies to be sanctioned, the Special Revenue Officers inspecting the wells later to decide whether or not subsidies could be sanctioned. Before subsidies are sanctioned the ryots should furnish an undertaking agreeing to abide by the conditions of the grant.

8. The grant of loans for sinking and repairing wells is governed by the ordinary Loans Rules. In order to provide for the quick disposal of applications for loans for the purpose, the rules have been specially amended so as to empower all Tahsildars to sanction loans up to Rs. 700 in each case. In respect of applications from occupancy ryots of estates, the one month's time ordinarily given to the landholder to signify his objections to the grant of the loan, has been reduced to ten days.

9. If it should be proved that any portion of the subsidy has been misapplied to any purpose other than that for which it has been granted or if the grantee fails to carry out the terms on which the subsidy has been granted the officer granting the subsidy may recover the entire amount of the subsidy summarily with interest and costs as an arrear of land revenue. In the case of wells in the districts, where the Grow More Food Scheme for the grant of a subsidy of 25 per cent of the cost, is in force, however, only half the amount of subsidy granted under the Accelerated Scheme will be recovered. The other half will be treated as subsidy granted under the Grow More Food Scheme.

10. If the work should fail altogether owing to causes over which the ryot has no control the Collector or the Board of Revenue will determine whether any repayment shall be required.